



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **DEQ awards funding for proposals under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act program**

BATON ROUGE – Today, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality approved funding for seven diesel emission reduction projects in response to a recent solicitation of proposals for funding.

Under ARRA, DEQ was allocated \$1.73 million for qualified applicants under the Diesel Emissions Recovery Act. DEQ is recommending six proposals for full awards and one for a partial award. The seven projects total more than \$1.5 million, and will fund diesel emissions reduction projects in areas deemed most beneficial for diesel emissions reductions and with high population density.

The approved projects include: the retrofitting of school buses in Caddo Parish; the repowering to natural gas of heavy duty diesel trucks in East Baton Rouge and Bossier City; the replacement of construction equipment in Farmerville; the replacement of landscaping equipment at Louisiana State University; the upgrading of locomotives with idle reduction systems in Orleans Parish; and the retrofitting of heavy duty trucks in Caddo Parish.

For the Bossier City project, approximately 51,000 gallons of diesel fuel is estimated to be replaced with cleaner burning natural gas. This remanufacturing and conversion of existing diesel engines into natural gas engines is expected to drastically reduce tailpipe emissions in Bossier City and Baton Rouge.

The largest award of \$600,000 will be presented to the Caddo Public School System in order to retrofit their school buses with diesel oxidation and particulate matter filters. This project is estimated to reduce annual diesel emissions, including diesel hydrocarbons, particulate matter and carbon monoxide, from Caddo Public School buses by approximately 50 percent over the life of the buses.

Under the Louisiana Clean Diesel Grant Program, proposals must demonstrate that the proposed project will maximize public health benefits, reduce diesel emissions in the state and create and/or sustain existing jobs.